

A solid blue vertical bar is positioned to the left of the title text.

# **COVID-19 and a Safer Return to Post-Secondary Campus**

AUGUST 2021

The City of Toronto acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The City also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

To build local capacity to promote COVID-19 immunization and increase vaccine confidence, address issues regarding vaccination policy, and provide information about a safer environment for students, staff, and faculty in the fall.

- Masks
- Physical Distancing
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- HVAC
- Screening Tool
- Rapid Antigen Testing
- International Students
- Dormitories/Residences
- Reporting Cases
- Close Contacts
- Vaccination
- Questions



The use of [face masks and coverings](#) is required in all indoor public spaces, under a City of Toronto [bylaw](#) and [O. Reg. 364/20](#)

Post signs in visible areas on the [proper use of masks](#) and [how to safely put on and take off a mask](#)

COVID-19



**Wearing  
a mask:  
dos and  
don'ts**

✓ Do clean your hands before and after wearing it

✓ Do ensure it covers your nose, mouth and chin

✓ Do change your mask when wet or dirty

✓ Do be respectful of people who can't wear masks

✓ Do keep 2 metres/6 feet from others

✗ Don't touch your face or mask while wearing it

✗ Don't hang your mask on your ear or wear it under your nose or chin

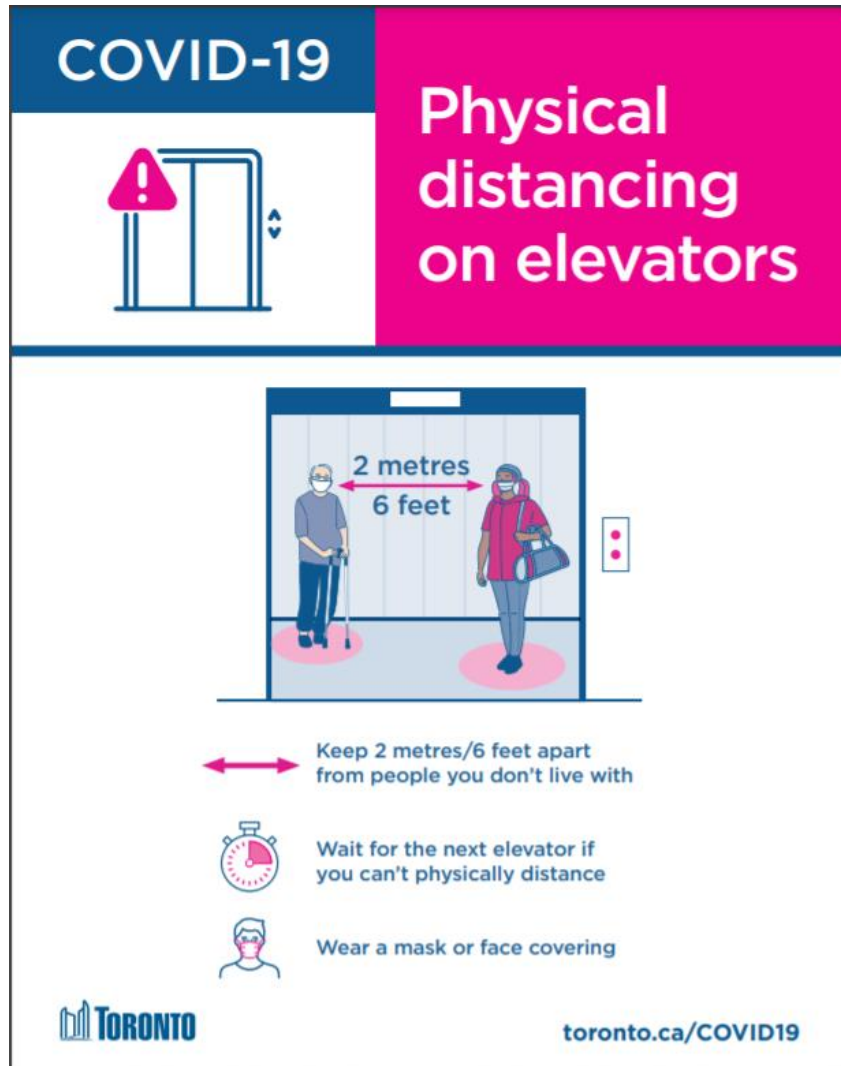
✗ Don't wear a mask if it is hard to breathe

✗ Don't put masks on children under age 2

✗ Don't share your mask with others

TORONTO

toronto.ca/COVID19



- All in-person instruction and on-campus activities at PSE institutions are planned to resume without physical distancing requirements or capacity limits. Masks and face coverings are still required for indoor settings
- General physical distancing, where possible, is still encouraged (e.g. elevators, entrances/exits, etc.)

# Physical Distancing

- Designate and clearly mark specific, separate entrances and exits, and only permit entry and exit through these doors
- Develop and post clear traffic flow signs to minimize unnecessary interactions
- Limit/discourage large gatherings/assemblies. Consider virtual or outdoor options
- Install structural [barriers](#) and cordon off areas to restrict access to closed areas



# Cleaning and Disinfection

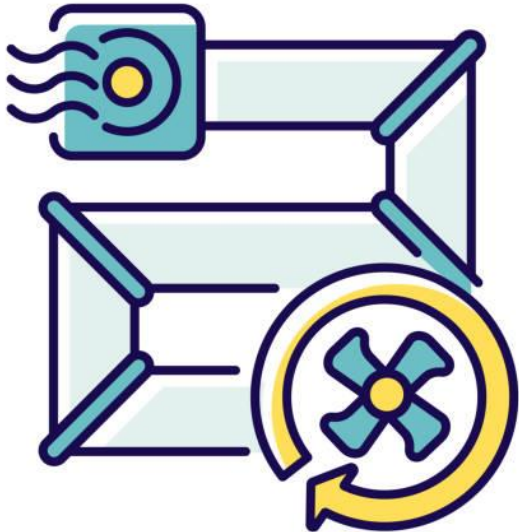
Consider frequent cleaning and disinfecting of **high-touch surfaces** and **shared objects** at least twice a day and when visibly dirty

**Educate** and **train** facility staff on how to use cleaning agents and disinfectants, and ensure:

- Required disinfectant contact times are followed
- Use of safety precautions and required PPE
- Directions for where and how to securely store cleaning and disinfectant supplies








- Consult an HVAC specialist to determine if the HVAC system is suitable for the type of setting, type of activity, number of occupants, and the length of time the space is occupied
- Increase the introduction and circulation of outdoor air by maximizing the outdoor air ratio of the HVAC system settings, or by opening windows and doors, where possible
- If using portable air purifiers/cleaners equipped with a HEPA filter, follow the manufacturer's directions to decide where best to place the device.
- Portable air cleaners are not a substitute for proper ventilation and other preventive measures











# Screening Tool

- All staff, students, & visitors should complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire before coming on campus every day, and should stay home if they answer YES to any of the questions
- Post signs in visible areas which clearly explains the screening process and the rules and conditions for entry
- Active screening is preferred, if possible

 **COVID-19 Staff Screening Questionnaire**  
All staff must complete before beginning their work shift or entering the workplace.  
Updated July 26, 2021

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Fever or chills	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Cough	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Trouble breathing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Sore throat or trouble swallowing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Runny or stuffy nose
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Decrease or loss of taste or smell	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Pink eye	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Headache*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Very tired, sore muscles or joints

If you have an existing health condition that gives you the symptoms, select "No," unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse.

\*If mild headache, tiredness, sore muscles or joints occur within 48 hours after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, select "No" and wear a medical mask when at work. If symptoms last longer than 48 hours or worsen, select "Yes."

If "YES" to any symptoms: Stay home & self-isolate + get tested or contact a health care provider

2. Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms and/or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? Yes ☐  
No ☐  
• If you are fully vaccinated\*, select "No."  
• If the household member's mild headache, tiredness, sore muscles or joints occurred within 48 hours after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, select "No". If their symptoms last longer than 48 hours or worsen, select "Yes."

3. Have you been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes ☐  
No ☐  
• If you are fully vaccinated\* and have not been advised to self-isolate by public health, select "No."

4. In the last 10 days, have you tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit? Yes ☐  
No ☐  
• If you have since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select "No."


5. In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada AND been advised to quarantine per the federal quarantine requirements? Yes ☐  
No ☐

If "YES" to questions 2, 3, 4 or 5: Stay home + follow Toronto Public Health advice

Operators must keep a record of attendance + contact information for all workers for 30 days and then shred.

Developed in accordance with recommendations and instructions issued by the [Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#)

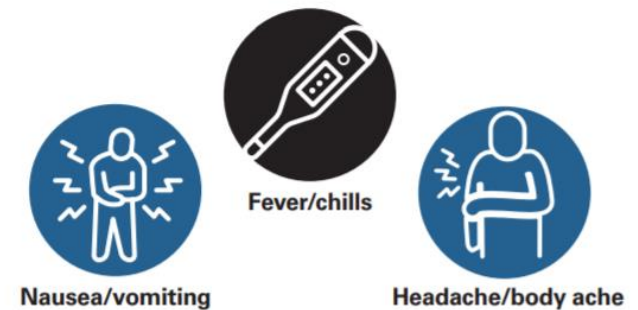
\*Fully vaccinated is defined as an individual ≥14 days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19 

# Screening Tool Changes

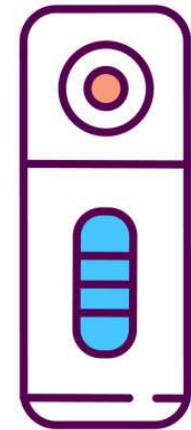
- Individuals who received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle ache and/or joint pain may be permitted to enter the school/workplace if:
  - They are not experiencing any other symptoms and pass all other screening questions, and
  - They wear a surgical/procedure mask
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated can select "No" for some questions

**You may have mild reactions  
after the vaccine.**



# Rapid Antigen Testing

- If rapid testing is used, it should only be performed as a second screening step for individuals who have passed the health screening questionnaire
- Rapid testing should not be used to diagnose COVID-19 for a person who has symptoms or who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19
- A person with a positive result from a rapid test must seek laboratory-based PCR testing within 24 hours. They must isolate while waiting for their confirmatory test result
- Rapid testing does not replace other public health measures such as physical distancing and masking, even if a person tests negative



# International Students

- Notify all travellers returning from outside Canada about the [mandatory quarantine or isolation](#) order, and encourage students to review the [COVID-19: Travel Advice](#) web page
- Fully vaccinated travellers may be eligible for exemptions if they meet specific conditions. Please visit [COVID-19 vaccinated travellers entering Canada](#) for more information
- International students can submit their COVID-19 immunization records for out of Ontario vaccination using [Toronto Public Health's online portal](#)





- Impose restrictions on living arrangements based on physical distancing, as well as for washrooms and common living spaces such as kitchenettes
- Set aside designated dormitories/private rooms to isolate and quarantine COVID-19 positive students or students with COVID-19 symptoms
- Support students who are quarantined or self-isolating:
  - Ensure policies, procedures, and programming are in place to allow for continued delivery of services and supports and/or learning and provide support and re-assurance
  - Ensure self-isolating students can receive deliveries of essential goods, like medications and groceries/meals, at their unit door so they can avoid non-essential trips outside
  - Ensure students are treated with respect, fairness and compassion with a focus on dignity and privacy protection





## **To report laboratory confirmed student/staff COVID-19 cases outside of university/college dormitories:**

Call the TPH Hotline at:  
416-338-7600  
(8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.,  
seven days a week)

Please remember to include:

- Name of institution & address
- Name of institutional contact
- Information on ill staff/student (including a working phone number, current address, and date of birth)
- Date symptoms started
- Last day at institution

# Reporting Cases: Dormitories/Residence



**To report laboratory confirmed student/staff COVID-19 cases who reside in university/college dormitories, email the following details to:**

**[TPHShelters@toronto.ca](mailto:TPHShelters@toronto.ca)**

**8:00 a.m.to 6:00 p.m., (Monday to Friday)**

**8:00 a.m.to 8:00 p.m. (Saturday, Sunday & Statutory Holidays)**



- Students/staff/visitors who have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 must [self-isolate](#) and [get tested](#).
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the last day they had close contact with the positive case.
- Fully vaccinated close contacts may not be required to self-isolate if they:
  - have no symptoms related to COVID-19;
  - are not immunocompromised;
  - are not a resident at a long-term care or retirement home;
  - are not a hospital inpatient; and
  - have not been otherwise instructed to self-isolate for 10 days by TPH
  - fully vaccinated individuals should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19



# Encouraging Vaccination

- [Encourage](#) staff and students who are 12 years of age and older to get vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine. Read and share information [about the vaccine and where to get vaccinated](#)
- Develop policy measures to optimize vaccination coverage rates of students and staff in post-secondary institution campuses and in congregate student-living settings
- Post signs and share [COVID-19 vaccine resources](#), available in multiple languages
- For additional resources to assist with improving vaccination rates, refer to our [COVID-19: Vaccine Information for Post-Secondary Institutions](#) and [Vaccine Information for Employers](#) webpages



# MOH Letter of Support



Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey  
Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Public Health  
277 Victoria Street  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1W2

Tel: 416-338-8402  
Fax: 416-392-0713  
na-koshie.lamptey@toronto.ca  
toronto.ca/health/professionals

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**RE: Optimizing COVID-19 vaccine coverage in post-secondary institutions and  
congregate student living settings**

Dear Post-Secondary Institution and Student Living Setting Administrator,

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Toronto Public Health (TPH) has worked extensively with community partners, including post-secondary institutions and congregate living settings, to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These mutual efforts have allowed the prioritization of the health and safety of all those who live, play and learn in the City of Toronto.

With decreasing COVID-19 case rates and increasing vaccination coverage across all age groups, the Ministry of College and Universities and many post-secondary institutions are planning to return to in-person campus activities for the fall 2021 term and beyond. Although this return is welcomed with excitement and anticipation, we must continue to use public health measures and policies that reduce risk of COVID-19 given the presence of variants of concern, and their role in community transmission. Preventive measures and policies will help us progress toward our goal of ending the pandemic.

TPH strongly supports post-secondary institutions and congregate student- living settings' initiatives to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence and uptake. This includes equitable barrier-free access to vaccination and provision of clear evidence-based information. Vaccination is a key public health measure to reduce community spread of COVID-19.

TPH recommends policy measures to optimize vaccination coverage rates of students and staff in post-secondary institution campuses and in congregate student-living settings. We are available for consultation on vaccination policy development and implementation to increase vaccination rates.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, support and collaboration in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. Please do not hesitate to contact our TPH Liaison at [TPHSchoolLiaison@toronto.ca](mailto:TPHSchoolLiaison@toronto.ca) or our hotline at 416-338-7600.


Sincerely,



Na-Koshie Lamptey, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCP  
Deputy Medical Officer of Health

# COVID-19: Vaccine Information for Post-Secondary Institutions

**COVID-19**  
Toronto is in Step Three of the Province's Roadmap to Reopen. Get health updates and information about COVID-19 vaccines at [toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19).



Search

I want to...

Services & PaymentsCommunity & PeopleBusiness & EconomyExplore & EnjoyCity Government

[City of Toronto](#) / [COVID-19](#) / [COVID-19: Protective Health Measures](#) / [COVID-19: Guidelines for Businesses & Community Organizations](#) / [COVID-19 Guidance: Post-Secondary Schools](#) / [COVID-19: Vaccine Information for Post-Secondary Institutions](#)

## COVID-19: Vaccine Information for Post-Secondary Institutions

Share  Print 

Last updated: August 17, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Vaccination is a key public health measure to help ensure a safe return to campus and residences for all staff, students and faculty of post-secondary education institutions and student residences.

Everyone 12 years of age and over in Ontario is currently eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Two doses of COVID-19 vaccine are needed for the best protection against COVID-19 and its more transmissible variants. Some post-secondary institutions have already instituted mandatory vaccination policies that promote health and safety measures to protect individuals living, working and studying in these settings. TPH supports the Ministry of Colleges and Universities' promotional efforts of vaccines and establishment of vaccination clinics to continue progress on vaccination rates as part the anticipated return to full in-person instruction and on-campus activities. These mandatory vaccination policies are also supported by both Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities to ensure the optimal public health protection for all staff, students and faculty.

People who are fully vaccinated are less likely to get infected with COVID-19 and spread it to others. While there is a small chance that people who are fully vaccinated may become infected with the virus, they are much less likely to experience severe illness and become hospitalized.

The following toolkit is a summary and collection of COVID-19 vaccine resources for post-secondary education institutions and private student residences to be used as part of public health planning and policy development for the fall 2021 term and beyond.

Expand All  Collapse All 

Approved Vaccines & Vaccine Schedules	+
Collecting Private Health Information	+
Vaccine Exemptions	+
Establishing a Vaccination Policy for Your Post-Secondary Institution	+

### In This Section

[COVID-19 Guidance: Post-Secondary Schools](#)

[COVID-19: Vaccine Information for Post-Secondary Institutions](#)

### Contact Information

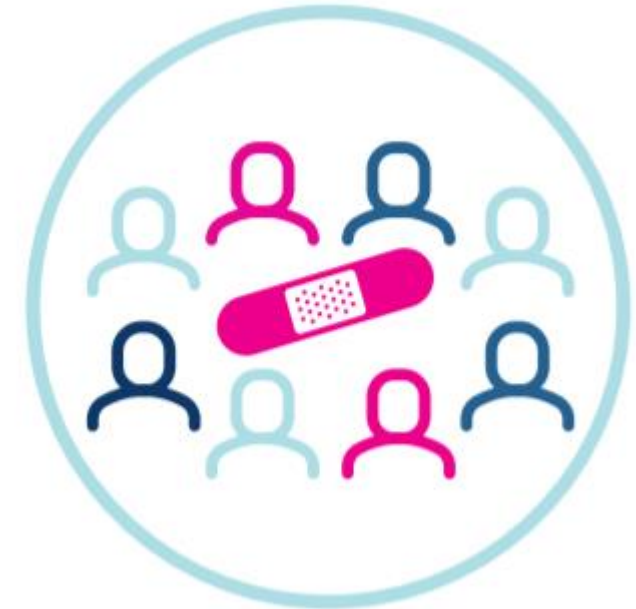
Province's toll-free line  
Call if you have questions about the emergency orders.  
Telephone: 1-888-444-3659

**NOTE: The Province is developing guidance and vaccination requirements for PSE institutions. PSE institutions must comply with provincial requirements and guidance.**

A vaccination policy is an important measure post-secondary institutions can implement to protect their community and help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission

## Key Components in a Vaccination Policy

1. Identify the scope and purpose
2. List action steps staff and students must take
3. Set deadlines for when actions must be taken
4. List available supports for vaccination
5. Provisions for unvaccinated staff and students
6. Non-Compliance
7. Privacy Considerations
8. Staff Contact



# Approved Vaccines

Four vaccines are currently approved by Health Canada:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)

The Government of Ontario also recognizes doses of COVID-19 vaccines included in the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Emergency Use Listing](#) as valid in Ontario including:

- Sinopharm/Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products
- Sinovac vaccines.



# Collecting Private Health Information (PHI)

Postsecondary institutions must comply with the [Personal Health Information Protection Act](#) (PHIPA) when collecting personal health information from staff and/or students including proof of vaccination



## Medical Exemptions

- Documentation should be signed by a physician or nurse practitioner, state that the individual cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19, and identify the time duration of this exemption
- The Province and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) are compiling a list of acceptable and specific medical exemptions which will become available soon



## Ontario Human Rights Code

- Legal consultation is recommended for any institutions seeking to establish an exemption policy in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code



# Vaccination Clinics on Campus



- Individuals looking to get immunized can visit the City of Toronto [COVID-19: How to Get Vaccinated](#) website for more information including on vaccine eligibility, how to book access their vaccine, and more



- Institutions seeking to partner with Toronto Public Health for onsite COVID-19 immunization clinics in their residences and on-campus can contact Toronto Public Health for more information. Please email [CSTVaccines@toronto.ca](mailto:CSTVaccines@toronto.ca) to connect

- [Approved COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (Health Canada)
- [COVID-19 and Ontario's Human Rights Code – Questions and Answers](#) (Ontario Human Rights Commission)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals Vaccinated outside of Ontario/Canada](#) (Ministry of Health)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet](#) (Ministry of Health)
- [COVID-19: Vaccine Clinic Locations](#) (Toronto Public Health)
- [COVID-19: Vaccine Resources](#) (City of Toronto)
- [COVID-19: Vaccines](#) (City of Toronto)
- [Evidence Brief: Risk of COVID-19 Transmission from Vaccinated Cases](#) (Public Health Ontario)

- [Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination plan](#) (Government of Ontario)
- [Q&A for Health Care Providers on Mixed COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Schedules](#) (Ministry of Health)
- [Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (National Advisory Committee on Immunization)
- [Status of COVID-19 Vaccines within WHO EUL/PQ evaluation process](#) (World Health Organization)
- [Vaccines for COVID-19](#) (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- [What being vaccinated against COVID-19 means for me \(Poster\)](#) (Public Health Agency of Canada)





# Thank you for working to keep schools safe